

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3658  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
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USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA  
USNMR SHAPE BE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T NATO 03533

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GR  
SUBJECT: GREEK AIDE-MEMOIRE ON DPC MINISTERS' CONSIDERA-  
TION OF TASK FORCE CONCEPT

REF: USNATO 2431 DTG 261845Z APR 77 (NOTAL)

THERE FOLLOWS BELOW THE TEXT OF AN AIDE-MEMOIRE PROVIDED  
BY THE GREEK DELEGATION ON MAY 16, 1977, CONCERNING THE  
TASK FORCE CONCEPT FOR APPLICATION TO THE SOUTHERN REGION.  
COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT THE STATEMENT IS DATED MAY 18, THE  
DATE OF THE DPC FINAL COMMUNIQUE. THE GREEK DELEGATION,  
HOWEVER, HAS NOT INDICATED TO US OR THE INTERNATIONAL  
STAFF HOW OR WHEN IT INTENDS TO USE THE AIDE-MEMOIRE.  
GREECE MAY BROACH THE SUBJECT, HOWEVER, IN A REGULAR NAC  
MEETING OR DURING A REGULAR TUESDAY LUNCHEON. IT WAS NOT  
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RAISED DURING DPC MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF THE FLEXI-  
BILITY STUDIES ON MAY 17, AND SECDEF'S PARTY HAS BEEN  
APPRISED OF THE DOCUMENT. BACKGROUND ON THIS ISSUE IS  
CONTAINED SEPTTEL. END COMMENT.  
BEGIN TEXT:

AIDE-MEMOIRE

TASK FORCE CONCEPT

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT, IN THE FRAME OF THE FLEXIBILITY STUDIES, ATTENTION OF THE D.P.C. ON MINISTERIAL LEVEL IS SPECIFICALLY DRAWN TO A PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF RESOLVING PROBLEMS OF NATO NAVAL STRUCTURE AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCES.

THE GREEK AUTHORITIES CONSIDER SUCH ACTION INAPPROPRIATE BOTH FOR PROCEDURAL REASONS AND REASONS OF SUBSTANCE:

A) A COMPLETE SACEUR REPORT ON THE SUBJECT, AS REQUESTED BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, HAS NOT BEEN, AS YET, SUBMITTED TO THE LATTER FOR CONSIDERATION. THIS, CERTAINLY, ACCOUNTS FOR THE REASON WHY ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF BRINGING NOW THE SUBJECT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTERS (SEE MCM-27-77/20.4. 1977).

B) THE QUESTION OF THE TASK FORCE CONCEPT IS, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, OF VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR GREECE. THEREFORE, ITS PROMOTION, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE GREEK AUTHORITIES, IS UNACCEPTABLE. IT WOULD ENTAIL SERIOUS PROBLEMS AND CREATE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFICULTIES FOR OUR ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS.

C) WITH REGARD TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROBLEM, IT MIGHT BE OPPORTUNE TO REMIND THAT GREEK AUTHORITIES ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE TASK FORCE CONCEPT IN THE SEA AREAS OF THE SOUTHERN REGION. THE GREEK AUTHORITIES ARE CONVINCED THAT NO OTHER NAVAL COMMANDER THAN COMEDEAST CAN UNDERTAKE THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF NAVAL FORCES OPERATING IN THE AEGEAN - A SEA WITH MORE THAN 3000

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ISLANDS, ISLETS AND ROCKS - WITHOUT HAVING THE NECESSARY INFORMATION FLOW ON (A) THE ENEMY; (B) THE RAPID CHANGING WEATHER AND SONAR CONDITIONS; AND (C) WITHOUT HAVING IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO AND CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE LOCAL AIR COMMANDER. THEY BELIEVE, THAT THE TASK FORCE CONCEPT CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED IN THE AFOREMENTIONED SEA AREAS.

END TEXT.BENNETT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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